

Date: Feb. 20, 2017

Dear Honorable Members of the Appropriations Committee,

My name is Laurence D. Pollack and I live in Avon Ct. I am the parent and guardian of my daughter Lindsey Pollack who has an intellectual disability with delays in speech, PT, and OT. I am testifying on the impact of the Governors Budget on people with intellectual and developmental disabilities.

My daughter is 22 years old and is currently working with a small crew and job coach at the Favarh Thrift Shop doing laundry.

As a family, we were in the same situation last year not knowing if there would be a "Day Program" for Lindsey.

We still have not effectively closed down the Southbury and Regional Training Centers even though all know that the past and current spending is out of control.

In addition, the people at Southbury and other regional centers would be better served by living in their communities.

I, only wish somebody would spend \$400,000/year on Lindsey.

As parents, we again are asking you to use the DDS budget effectively for all people that need and deserve services.

Institutional living (Southbury) is a civil rights issue. The Governor has fought hard on progressive issues such as immigration, Gay rights, etc., but the Civil Rights issues of the Disabled are not being remedied. Instead this Budget again wants to eliminate the most important service the "Day Program and Employment Services". I would expect this "Civil Rights" issue in states that I would not choose to live in, not Connecticut.

People with Disabilities deserve a meaningful day, a roof over their head, and a social life just like everybody else.

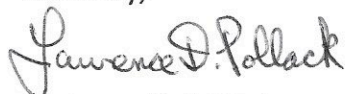
We applaud the Governor's proposal to invest \$3.8 million dollars in the ID Partnership which will help people on the DDS Residential Waiting list, support developing more residential options for people with I/DD and stabilize community supports. That is going in the right direction.

As a parent of a special needs child we are in constant worry for them almost from birth. Most of us spend countless hours, as we should be, trying to get the most development possible for our children.

Please do not add to our fears by eliminating the essential day and employment services. Please finally, allocate the money you have in the past DDS Budget effectively by making some hard decisions.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Laurence D. Pollack". The signature is written in dark ink and is positioned above the printed name.

Laurence D. Pollack
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Avon Ct. 06001